

NEWS IN *brief*

Alim's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 80th birth anniversary of Abdul Alim, a legendary folk artiste and mystic singer of the country.

He played an important role in popularising folk music.

Different social and cultural organisations have taken different programmes to observe his birth anniversary.

On the occasion, Abdul Alim Foundation will offer a special prayers and place wreaths at his graveyard, says a press release.

Besides, different television channels will broadcast special programmes.

He was born on July 27, 1931 at Murshidabad, West Bengal in India.

Later, he migrated to Dhaka after partition and joined Bangladesh Betar as a staff artiste.

During his illustrious musical career he performed at number of music conferences and received several awards.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the inaugural function of the divisional commissioners' conference at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: PID

Help Lina live

METRO DESK

Nahid Jahan Lina, a reference coordinator of private television channel NTV, has been suffering from cancer for last two years.

Lina was operated in the city's LabAid Hospital in 2009, but did not fully recover. As her condition worsened, she was taken to Apollo Hospital in Chennai, India.

Doctors there advised her operation that requires around Tk25-30 lakh.

Unable and with no way out, his brother Fahim Hossain appealed to well-off people to extend financial aid for saving Lina's life. A spirited media professional, Lina also worked at ETV, ATN Bangla, and CSB News as news room coordinator.

Anybody can send financial assistance to Fahim Hossain, account no-7002-0311014732, Trust Bank Ltd, Principle Branch, 98, Shaheed Sharani, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206 or contact him at 01678055135.



Chicken trader killed in city road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed as a speeding sand-laden truck ran over him near Khilgaon over bridge early morning yesterday.

The dead identified as Belal Hossain, 50, was a chicken trader of Goran.

The truck ran over him when he was going to Kaptan Bazar to buy chicken and was crossing the road around 5.30am.

Khilgaon police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Sub-inspector (SI) Abul Hossain Sharif said police have seized the truck from the spot but the driver managed to escape.

3 RU teachers fired

RU CORRESPONDENT

Three lecturers of Rajshahi University, who were appointed temporarily, lost jobs yesterday as the authorities did not extend their job period on allegations of "taking law in hands" and provoking students into anti-administration protest.

The fired teachers -- Solok Hossain, Monoz Kumar Pramanik, and Abdus Salam Zibon -- taught at the Department of Music and Drama.

The RU authorities appointed them lecturers on ad hoc basis on July 20, 2010 and their job term expired on July 20, 2011, according to the administrative sources.

The department sources said the authorities in a meeting on July 25 decided not to extend their job period as they "took law in hands by putting the department's office under lock and key", did reckless activities against the highest authorities, provoked students into demonstrations, and submitted false written complaint against senior teachers.

Prof Md Shahidullah, dean of the Arts faculty and also chairman of the department, said the three teachers were asked to refrain from all academic activities from July 25.

On March 30, some teachers of the department led by Dr Asit Roy suddenly locked the department chairman's office and demanded removal of the chairman, Prof Moly Bhoumick. They along with some teachers and students also staged weeklong demonstration in front of the VC's residence from March 31.



Novera's 5th anniversary of death today

METRO DESK

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a gold medalist from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) of Dhaka University and former journalist of The Daily Star, says a press release.

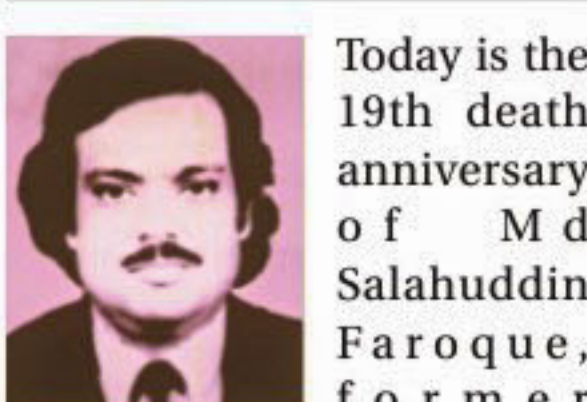
On the occasion, prayers will be offered at her grave, and a milad and doa mahfil will be held.

As done in the previous years, Novera Deepita Memorial Trust will award a scholarship worth Tk 25,000 to the student securing the highest score in MCJ department.

Novera died in 2006 when she was only 32. She left behind her husband, parents, brothers, sister, and countless friends and well-wishers.

Salahuddin Faroque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of Md Salahuddin Faroque, former

managing director of Modhumati Group and son of late Md Sirajuddin, the founder of the group, says a press release.

On the occasion, the company has taken initiative to observe the anniversary.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

VICTIM OF MUGGING

French student faces ordeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

French student Sara never imagined she could be mugged like this until July 19, her third day in Bangladesh. The ordeal was too much to handle and she decided to cut her one-and-a-half-months trip short and leave Bangladesh this Friday.

The 21-year-old arrived in Bangladesh to join as an intern of Brac, the world's largest non-government organisation.

She has severe injuries to her legs, hands, back and chest. Five of her left ribs are broken, said Sara's doctor at United Hospital in Gulshan.

Sara, who does not want to disclose her full name, narrated the mugging to The Daily Star yesterday.

It was around 10:45 in the night when Sara and three of her French friends were returning to their hotels and guest-houses after having their dinner at a restaurant in Banani, she said lying in her hospital bed.

Sara's hotel was a five-minute walk from the restaurant. "We just came out of the restaurant and were walking together along Banani Road-11. A shiny new car stopped besides me for seconds and a youth sitting on the passenger seat grabbed the bag which was hanging from my right shoulder," said Sara, a business student from Lyon.

"I held my bag tighter and started shouting like I have never done before in my life. At that moment, the youth started punching my head and the car started rolling forward," said Sara.

"The car started dragging me along as I held on to the bag for about 300 metres and then I let go. At that moment, I passed out for while and when I regained my senses I was still on the ground," she said.

"I got so scared seeing the bleeding from my legs, hands and other parts of my body."

Friends of Sara and a Bangladeshi lady rescued her from the middle of the road and laid her down on the couch of a nearby shop. They decided to take her to a hospital seeing all the bleeding.

Sara was then put on a rickshaw. On the way another car stopped besides them and a couple offered them a ride to the hospital. The couple took Sara to United Hospital.

"He [the mugger] was young and I think he is from a rich family," she said.

Sara, however, got her bag back the next day when an official of Brac found it in Banani and returned it to her. The bag had the hotel address in it.

The muggers took all the money, the mobile phone and the camera but left her passport and credit cards.

Sara said she was supposed to visit Rangpur and Dinajpur as part of her internship.

"I really had good times with my friends here and the Brac programmes were interesting. But, I will have to leave Bangladesh without finishing my internship," she said.

Enamul Islam, a doctor of United Hospital, said her condition is improving gradually. Injuries to her legs and back are deep and she could not walk for a few days, but now she can walk.



The injured French student Sara is under treatment at the United Hospital in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

Stand by autistic children

Parents urge govt

BSS, Dhaka

Parents living with autistic children have urged the government to stand by them with sustainable programmes for healthy growth of the victims as the ongoing international conference on autism came as a beacon light to the families concerned.

Talking to the news agency on the sidelines of the meet, several parents of autistic children said the neurobiological disorders exposed their children to a cruel social reality when none but fathers and mothers would come to their help as they are generally considered mad by the society.

Innovative and sustainable programmes by the government alongside the private initiatives and social groups are crucially needed to resolve the autism problem that appears in the first three years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills, they opined while describing the heartbreaking experience they are facing in the society.

Parents of Adil, Ork and Srijon echoed the same and appealed to the government to set up specialised educational institutions to take care of the autistic babies side by side raising massive awareness. Sharing experience about the struggle in facing autism Dr Lidi Huq whose son was affected by autism in nine months of his birth in London said she identified the disease earlier as she is a physician by profession. She takes her baby to a Child Develop Centre in London where the doctor tells her that the child will be all right gradually.

Dr Lidi Huq, who went to London for professional reason, said Adil was admitted to the autistic school and he was given lesson under a tutor also.

"My son was taught by the teachers at the autistic schools and later taken to the normal school. A positive change came in his behavioral pattern as he was following the procedures and instructions given by the teachers," she said, adding that her son participated in an art competition and won the Egyptian award at the age of 15.

Dr Huq who did her PhD in medicine became an autism expert after caring her son and running an autism consultation centre in Dhaka said she has been able to overcome autism problem of her son to some extent after diagnosing the disease on time, and getting cooperation from the government of UK.

She urged the government to give priority to autism issue and set up specialised institutions including state-sponsored consultation centres in the country.

Syeda Shanewaz Latik and Kaisul Momen Kakon, parents of Aninda Momen Ork, another autistic baby who was affected by autism at the age of two and a half years, tell about unfriendly and negative attitude of society that compelled them to live in almost isolation.

"Normally we refrain from attending the social functions as people look at my son and the family in differently," said Latika who dedicated herself in taking care of her child after resigning from the job at a private farm. She said, "My relatives do not visit my residence, not even the neighbours after my child became autistic."



WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	27.5	82	67
Chittagong	32.7	26.0	92	77
Rajshahi	34.2	26.4	86	76
Rangpur	33.7	28.4	78	87
Khulna	33.8	26.8	78	81
Barisal	34.0	27.0	80	70



- Discussion**  
Bangladesh National Awami Party (Nap) will hold a discussion. Time: 4:30pm. Venue: Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust Bhaban.
- Consultation**  
The Ministry of Environment and Forests will organise a half-day consultation. Time: 8:45am. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.
- Seminar**  
The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will hold a seminar. Time: 11:00am. Venue: BIDS conference room.
- View-exchange**  
Community Development Centre (Codec) will hold a view-exchange meeting. Time: 9:00am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.
- Seminar**  
National Defence College (NDC) and BISS will jointly hold a seminar on civil-military relations. Time: 9:30am. Venue: NDC, Mirpur Cantonment.
- Discussion**  
National Garment Workers Federation will organise a discussion. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity.
- Ceremony**  
SME Foundation and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will hold a co-operation ceremony. Time: 10:55am. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.
- Workshop**  
East West University (Ewu) will hold a workshop. Time: 10:30am. Venue: Ewu auditorium, Mohakhali.
- Seminar**  
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will hold a seminar. Time: 11:00am. Venue: FBCCI conference room.